



Durrell and L.T. are brothers who would benefit from being in a family who provides structure, permanency and a lot of laughter. Both boys love sports and are creative each in his own way.

Durrell, 14, is a charming teenager described as being "funny and friendly." He has a talent for fixing things around the house and wants to be a construction worker. He loves to play football, baseball and soccer. He likes surfing the Internet and playing computer games. Durrell is in an ungraded, self-contained classroom where he is working at a 4th to 6th grade level. His favorite subject is Math. Durrell receives average grades, but has been working to improving his academic performance. He receives medication and mental health therapy to address abuse and loss issues.

L.T. is outgoing and artistic. He tells a lot of jokes and loves to make others laugh. He dances, watches movies, writes lyrics and draws, he won 1st place in an art competition. He loves football and swimming. He has a "sweet disposition" and enjoys good relationships with adults and his peers. In the 6th grade he performs at grade level, his favorite subject is Science. He is determined to do well and has been steadily improving his academic performance.

Durrell and L.T. need a family who will participate in an extensive transitional treatment plan prior to placement and who will allow them to remain in contact with other siblings. Financial assistance is available for travel, medical care and mental health therapy.

Missouri's Foster & Adoptive Families are making...

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Volume 3, Issue 3, Winter 2004

ONE MORE PROBLEM

My family recently experienced a situation that I am sure is not unique, but was painful to us. My child started second grade this year and every year they do a math project making graphs from birth information. I had noticed this project at earlier Open Houses at my child's school and had mentioned to the teacher when the time came. She responded positively at the time and when school started this year I made a mental note to address the issue. I did not realize that the project took place on the second day of school.

At home I asked my child what was homework that day and the reply was a very subdued, "It's a born thing, Mom. Doesn't my teacher know about me, that I'm adopted?" Upon seeing the project in my child's backpack I immediately tracked down the counselor and had a long discussion to see what could be done to remedy the situation. She asked if I would please talk to the teacher with her. We made an appointment for the next day.

This assignment forced me to address some issues with my child that I do not believe were appropriate at this point in my child's life. What hospital were they born in? How much did they weigh? How long? What city? What time were they born?

During the discussion with the counselor and the teacher I tried to impress upon them the hurt that can be caused by such an assignment and suggested possible alternatives. We were lucky; we had a baby picture given to us by foster parents. What of the children that don't have that picture and that blank spot gets posted on the wall for Open House? The teacher seemed open to changing the assignment if she knew of any adopted children in future classes. This is a small school and she felt the chances of knowing that information was good. She also asked if adoptive parents would be offended if she called them personally to ask them if the assignment is appropriate. I said that would be appreciated. I asked her why she asked for hospital information, how did she use that in the graph? "We don't," she explained, she got the form from a workshop. Though I feel some progress was made in this situation for future children, it was hurtful to mine and the teacher's final comment illustrated how little I believe she grasped the situation as it applies to special needs adoption. "It is just a cute project with all their baby pictures," she said to me with confidence. I replied with, "Just how cute is the pain this could cause a child?"

The counselor was open to introducing the idea of adoption sensitivity training to the staff. So is there a resource for the training and whom should I call?

Thank you for all your help.

Sincerely,
Laurie Murhpy,
(adoptive) Mom

Reply from The Adoption Exchange to Laurie Murhpy:

Thank you for addressing this issue with your child's school. I'm sure that your letter represents

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PLEASE NOTE:

INFORMATION and ARTICLES for the SPRING EDITION
of *FAMILY CONNECTIONS* is DUE TO
THE ADOPTION EXCHANGE by APRIL 10, 2004

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

Dear Advocates-

Electoral Advocacy is one of the best ways to influence the policy making process because candidates are eager to listen to your questions and suggestions. Providing information to candidates will help to increase your organization's visibility and heighten your credibility as a trusted source of information on children's issues.

Citizens for Missouri's Children would like to invite you and/or the organization that you work with to get involved in this process. There are numerous ways to do this and we are choosing to focus on two; either assisting groups in arranging small intimate conversations with candidates from their district or coordinating more structured public candidate forums. CMC has prepared "how to" guides to assist local groups. We will give you these guides and also will provide technical assistance.

Please contact Emily Smith if you are willing to 1) HOST A CONVERSATION WITH A CANDIDATE; or 2) HOST A CANDIDATE FORUM. If you feel you need additional information before committing to do one of these activities, please call Emily.

Thank you,

Emily Smith, Outreach Coordinator

Citizens for Missouri's Children, phone: 573/634.4324

www.mokids.org

FINANCE YOUR ADOPTION

Interested in financing your adoption but unsure of how to go about it? Visit <http://Loans.Adoption.com> to apply for a loan, get a free credit report, and other resources designed to help with the financial aspect of adoption. Even if you have a unique situation, there may be some options available. For more information about funding your adoption, visit <http://Loans.Adoption.com>.

An E-bulletin brought to you by The Child Welfare League of America

Educational Supports for Youth In Out-of-Home Care 9/14/04: A strong educational foundation is essential for success, and that's particularly true for children and youth in our foster care system. For a number of reasons, children placed in foster care often slip behind their peers in school. But minimizing enrollment delays and providing additional supports to children and youth in care can begin to close this gap. Child welfare agencies may be able to bring these resources to children and youth in care through the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act.

McKinney-Vento ensures that children are entitled to continued enrollment in their home school or immediate enrollment in a new school. The act also provides a stream of federal funding for an array of supports, including but not limited to tutoring, transportation, and cash assistance to ensure the participation of homeless children and youth in elementary and secondary school.

Although the act was developed for children who are homeless, communities nationwide have applied McKinney-Vento eligibility to young people who have run away from a foster home, group home, or other placement, and children in a number of temporary living arrangements including shelters, foster homes, group homes, and evaluation centers. And you can, too. For more information, visit CWLA's website.

Each school district is required to appoint a McKinney-Vento liaison. Your state education coordinator can give you the contact information for your local liaison. A list of state coordinators is available from the National Center for Homeless Education. For a complete copy of the McKinney-Vento legislation and the most recent guidance issued by the US Department of Education, visit www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf. For more information, you can also visit www.naehcy.org and www.nlchp.org/FA_Education, or contact Ruth White, 202/662-4282.



Donnie, age 7. He is in good physical health. His foster mother describes him as "charming, witty, helpful, and loving". Donnie is affectionate, likes to give and receive hugs, and responds well to positive attention from the adults in his life. Donnie has a great smile, and loves to be praised for doing a good job.

Donnie enjoys going to school and especially likes reading time. Donnie made tremendous progress in the past school year academically and behaviorally. His teachers have many positive comments about Donnie.

Donnie likes going to the library, playing computer games, and listening to music. Donnie is a huge Spiderman man fan, but likes Scooby Doo and the Ninja Turtles too. He enjoys playing outside, riding his bike and going fishing. He wants people to know his favorite color is green, he loves to play Legos, and likes going to church.

The birth parents have signed consent to termination, and the court will order the termination upon location of an adoptive family for Donnie.

Donnie needs an environment providing a high level of structure and consistency. Donnie's foster parents will be a valuable resource in working with the adoptive family to maintain and continue his current routine.

Donnie would do best in a home where he is the only child, although he would also do well with siblings who are several years older than him. It is not recommended that Donnie be placed in a home with younger children. The adoptive family should also be willing to maintain and support contact between Donnie and his five siblings through visits, letters, and pictures. Shawn Frye, Children's Services Worker, Pettis County Children's Division, 660-530-5900 Extension 242

E-mail address:
shawn.m.frye@dss.mo.gov

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

News From Jackson County 2004

Recruiter Beth Rasa recruited Foster/Adopt Families on August 10 at St. Joseph Hospital. Katie Lillis spoke to BACA members about becoming Foster parents August 14, 2004. Veronica Besch spoke to the Independence PTA about becoming foster/adopt resources on August 10, 2004. Karin Pruitt hosted an information night at the Central Library on August 25, 2004 and August 30, 2004 at the Grandview Community Center.

The Foster Parent Clothes Closet was open on August 16, 2004 from 9-10:30am and again 5-6:30pm. Nineteen families came to shop and a total of (63) children were served. Open every six weeks throughout the year and stocked with new and gently used clothing, this resource offers Foster Parents an opportunity to supplement the wardrobes of their Foster children. Karin Pruitt is working with Broadway United Methodist to keep the clothes closet stocked and this year she will be looking for school uniforms to be donated. The Clothes Closet will be open again on September 20, 2004, 9-10:30am and again 5-6:30pm as well as November 8, 2004.

The Kansas City Star has been a Community Partner for the last few years. Instead of the annual Community Baby Shower this year, a raffle was hosted to raise money to purchase diapers, formula, bottles, blankets and clothing for new borns who come into DFS care. This program has been very beneficial to Foster Parents in Jackson County because it provides them with an immediate supply of necessary items for the child they have accepted.

The Cerner Corporation donated 300 "LOVE BUNDLES" to Jackson County. These were picked up on Tuesday, August 2nd and distributed to area offices. Thanks to all who assisted with the pick up !

Recruiter Karin Pruitt is Coordinating the Volunteer Appreciation lunch is scheduled for April 14th and will be held at the Herford House restaurant. This event honors all who volunteer their time and money to help support Children and Families involved with DFS. We have added the Kansas City Chiefs to our list of Volunteers this year and will be thanking them for hosting (what we hope will become an annual event) a Christmas Party for Jackson County Foster Children.

92 volunteers were treated to lunch and a hearty Thank you on behalf of the Jackson County Division of Children's Services. Everyone received certificates of appreciation and two groups were recognized as Volunteer of the year.

We went to Camp ! June is the month for Camp Opportunity as well as Foster Family camp at Mogan. The Salvation Army hosted the Foster Family camp this year for Foster Families & children on June 18, & 19, 2004. Training opportunities were available as well as swimming, hiking, tennis, crafts and fun for the entire family. Cost was just \$5.00 per person for the entire weekend – lodging & food included !!!

The Joining Hands Newsletter , produced by Recruiter, Katie Lillis, comes out four times a year to update Foster Parents on training schedules, policy & practice information and general agency news. Foster Parent, Janet Richardson will be producing this Newsletter from now on and it will combine Children's Division information as well as information from our three area Foster Parent support groups.

Spend a day at the KC Zoo on September 18, 2004. This is a children's health and safety fair that the KC Zoo is launching in conjunction with Radio Disney 1190. The KC Zoo has offered the Children's Division the opportunity to have space at this event for games and information for anyone interested in learning more about how to become a foster/adopt resource.

Continued on next Page

Corporate Christmas Begins ! We will be sending out registration forms in July for DFS staff to complete on legal 3 children 0 to 2 yrs. And 13 yrs. & up who are in out of home placements. Staff provides first names, ages, gender, clothing sizes and three gift wishes. Our Corporate Sponsors then go shopping for Christmas gifts. Last year our Corporate Sponsors provided Christmas to over 900 children.

The Red Bag Program gets underway ! During August letters are sent out to Foster Parents along with registration forms for Foster Children. They provide first names, ages, gender, clothing sizes and three gift wishes for each **foster** child in their home, 2yrs. of age to 13 yrs. Last year the **Red Bag** program provided supplemental Christmas gifts to over 1000 legal status 1 children. This program helps take some of the financial burden away from Foster Parents during the Christmas holiday season as it can be very expensive purchasing Christmas Gifts for six or more children.

The Adoption Fair will be held in November 8th @ South-Broadland Presbyterian Church – 7850 Holmes. Community resources will be invited to share information about the adoption process to prospective adoptive resources. Our focus this year will be on children 10 yrs. of age and up as well as sibling groups.

November is National Adoption Month! In recognition of National Adoption Month, display boards will be posted throughout the Jackson County Federal Building for the entire month. Information will be available to all interested in learning more about how to become adoptive resources for children who wait.

The Northwest Region Children's Division hosted an Adoption Celebration Event on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at the Lexington United Methodist Church. The event was sponsored by the Midwest Care and Adoption Association. Children available for adoption as well as waiting families were in attendance at the event. Through a grant from the Adoption Exchange, the Children's Division was able to purchase t-shirts for the children. The celebration provided fun-filled activities for children, on site consultation, information resources, and a ceremony honoring adoptive families. We will be tracking outcomes in the weeks to come and are excited about the possibilities of permanent home for many of these children.



Carliesha is an animated and sociable girl who would like to feel safe and loved forever. She is quite creative and a good singer. Carliesha is interested in many things typical of a girl her age such as, coloring, dancing and playing dress-up. Carliesha entered foster care several years ago due to abuse and neglect and currently lives in a residential treatment center. She has moderate learning delays and receives one-on-one attention in an ungraded self-contained classroom. Carliesha can be kind and affectionate when in a stable and comfortable environment, however, there are times when she exhibits defiant behaviors. She has been diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). She attends weekly therapy and receives medication to help her deal with mental health and behavioral concerns. According to her social worker, Carliesha will benefit from a family who is willing to advocate for her in school and to support her in therapy. All two-parent or single-mother families where Carliesha can be the youngest or only child will be considered. Parents must be willing to participate in an extensive transitional treatment plan prior to placement. Financial assistance is available for travel, post-adoption services, purchase of adoption services and medical care.

PARTNERSHIP, ASSOCIATION & COALITION NEWS

The Missouri Foster Care and Adoption Association

The MFCAA with the help of Missouri Children's Division, The Adoption Exchange, and the National Foster Parent Association has had another successful state training conference in Branson. The attendees had the opportunity to obtain sixteen hours of approved training not to mention the ability to network with others who understand the frustrations and gratifications of being a foster and adoptive parent. I cannot mention everyone who made this conference such a great success, but you know who you are. I give a big THANK-YOU from the bottom of my heart to everyone. A special thanks to Steve Roling Missouri's Social Services Director, who since our conference has chosen to leave his position as Director. We will miss you Steve, the dedication you brought to that office will be hard to replace. Fred Simmons Missouri Director of the Children's Division and Kim Combes Region 7 V.P. from NFPA all of who were our opening ceremonies speakers. At our closing we had the pleasure of hearing from the new NFPA President Marvin Ferno Jr., and past NFPA President Shirley Hedges.

One of the most exciting things that happened at this year's conference was the Dutton Family Theater who not only supplied a beautiful voice to sing our national anthem, but worked with MFCAA to allow us to be able to sponsor all in attendance and their families to see their show. At their show I was able to go on stage and present the Duttons with an honorary membership certificate to the MFCAA.

We are already working on our next conference which will once again be held at the beautiful Settle Inn in Branson Missouri, on June 23, 24, & 25, 2005 and with the help from a mini grant that we were awarded from "AdoptUSKids". It is shaping up to be the best ever so mark your calendars and read the next issue for more information.

Thanks For all you do for children

Jim McKenna

State President MFCAA



The *Adoption and Foster Care Coalition of Missouri (AFCC)* is pleased to acknowledge that we have received a contract through the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide Alternative to Abortion services to pregnant women in Missouri for the coming fiscal year. This contract allows the Pregnancy Maintenance Network to provide services to Missouri women living in poverty to maintain healthy pregnancies, and to assist them in giving a healthy start to their children. This is the seventh year that AFCC has received these funds to provide intervention and assistance through this program, which we view as a child abuse and neglect preventative intervention.

Please mark Wednesday, November 17, 2004 as the AFCC annual meeting, to be held at the Lenoir Center in Columbia Missouri.

This year's agenda will feature several workshops geared to offer tips and tools regarding youth in transition to families and professionals. Presentations will include: **Lifebooks: A Bound(less) Biography, with presenter,** Connie Quinn and **Family Found! Increasing the Good News in Child Welfare;** Presenters, Kate Baldi and Yolanda Rodgers; and, **AdoptCare Overview** presented by the Adoption Exchange's own Russ Myler and John Steinberg. Please make plans to join us!



This fall the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, along with St. Louis City and St. Louis County Children's Division, will host the next Training Extravaganza on Saturday, October 30th, from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at New City Fellowship Church, 1483 82nd Street, St. Louis, MO 63132. The Training Extravaganza is an all day training that allows foster/adoptive/relative caregivers 7.5 in-service training hours in one day, and you can bring the kids, too.

Topics for this fall's extravaganza are being finalized. If you would like more information on how to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity please contact Rossi Summers at 314.340-7733 or 1-800-FOSTER-3 or reshellesummers@foster-adopt.org.



The Lincoln County Chapter of the Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Assoc. (Area 2) had a Back to School Picnic for the foster & adoptive families. They enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at Weinand Park with food provided by the support group. Each foster and adopted child of school age received a back pack full of school supplies. The group had spent one day outside of Wal-Mart collecting school supplies two weeks prior to this event. The Troy Fire Department brought by one of their trucks and the children were able to climb through it and even hold a fire hose and water the grass! A great time was had by all.



Carlton, 16 Years Old

Carlton is a teen who can dazzle you with his bright smile and charming demeanor. When Carlton has free time he enjoys reading and relaxing. His hobbies include building model cars and zoids. Carlton likes playing an array of games such as, Chess, Sorry, and video games. Wrestling, football and skating are recreational activities that Carlton enjoys. Carlton loves spending time watching movies. He could imagine himself being an actor in a starring role in movie. Carlton enjoys being around animals and dreams of having a job that would allow him to work closely with a variety of animals. Carlton is a tenth grade student. His favorite subjects in school are math and science.

Carlton would love to have parent(s) who could help him with his homework. Adoption would be a dream come true for Carlton. Carlton wants to have an adoptive family. Carlton stated that having an adoptive family would make him feel happy. A one or two parent family is being sought for Carlton. He would benefit from being in a family environment that offered him nurturance, support, and guidance.

Renita Jones, Adoption Specialist
Missouri Children's Division
St. Louis City
111 North Seventh Street
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 340-4810

Opinions

I want to share a story with all of you that makes me think about our since of community. Let's chat after the story....

Life is much like making ice cream. There are times when we need to do the easy turning, and there are times when we are able to do the hard tuning.

When I was a child, the fourth of July was my favorite holiday. On this day, our family gathered for good eating and homemade ice cream. We only made ice cream once a year; so it made the day even more memorable. The women brought the ingredients for the ice cream and gathered in the kitchen to mix them together. The children took turns turning the ice cream maker, and although the men took care of the barbecue, they also took over running the ice cream maker when it became too difficult for the children. With the effort of the entire family, we had ice cream at the end of the day. It did not matter who had turned the most, who had bought ice cream mix instead of making it from scratch, or who had cut the most fruit for the ice cream. We had all done what we were capable of doing, and because of this we were able to enjoy the harvest.

I think that life is much like making ice cream. There are times when we need to do the easy turning, and their are times when we are able to do the hard turning.

*Excert from, **Wrong Feet First: A Gift of Stories for Your Inside-out Kind of Day** by Arta' D. Banks, Adoptive Parent*

This story reminds me of days when people felt good about helping out other people. It reminds me of days when a family fell on hard times, people where willing and able to help out in any way they could with no judgment. Sometimes that help was to pay a bill, send over groceries, and help out with child care or simply taking in a child while the parent/s got back on their feet. Now, I do realize that if you are reading this article, I'm preaching to the choir. You all obviously remember these days too and are still practicing this type of community support. *So who's supporting you?* For the past few years, I've read in print media how irresponsible foster/adoptive parents and the Children's Division are. That we aren't accountable for our children and we are careless with regard to their well being. One national reporter even went so far to write an article that indicated that residential care was a better option for children opposed to foster/adoptive homes. *Are you angry yet?* This kind of badgering cannot continue to manipulate an palpable and manifest gesture of community responsibility and building of families. These same reporters that deem our network as unworthy advocates to our "poor and helpless" children, are also the same reporters that can't wait to write the story and make a movie about how aggressive and dangerous our "poor and helpless" children are. I for one am really feed up with the negativity! Yes, we have to be accountable for when things go wrong, none of our children should be at risk under our care and supervision. When our children are at risk, we should face the consequences, as did their families of orgin. However, I'd like to read for a change about the wonderful things going on in our network. When do we get media coverage when a panel of our youngersters tell the public that they want to be adopted, or would like a scholarship to college because they've proven the community wrong when they "bet the odds" and decided to pursue a post high school education. Where is the media when a community or churches get together for a recruitment event for our children in an effort to identify foster or adoptive homes, or mentors? Where is the media, when a single mother decides to adopt a sibling group of five children and is doing a fantastic job parenting them. Where is the media when a family adopts or fosters a child with RAD and has no intention on letting the caretakers ever earn his/her complete trust, yet the parents unconditionally love this child regardless. Where is the media when a grandmother takes kinship placement of a sibling group of eight children with no hesitation at all on a fixed income? Where is the media when foster/adoptive parents and professionals get together to support each other through difficult times in an effort to avoid disruption? Where is the media when a family is hopeful to

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Support Groups Training Opportunities

Alliance for S.A.F.E.:

The July 20th, Alliance for S.A.F.E. meeting was held at the Evangelical Children's Home on St. Charles Rock Road. 48 family members and two visiting agencies attended the meeting. Sponsors were Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition and Lutheran Family and Children's Services.

The educational speaker, Michael Harris, Director of Clinical Services at Jewish Family & Children's Services and Research Instructor at Washington University School of Medicine, is also an adoptive parent of a 3 year old African American child. He and his wife, Ally are Caucasian with a 9 year-old biological son. He gave a "great" one-hour presentation on "Sibling Relations in Adoption: You Gotta Have Faith" and used a lot of personal stories to backup professional information. The 11 evaluations from parents all stated "he was excellent".

The meal was catered and the parents were able to eat dinner during the educational presentation. The group formed 3 parent-facilitated groups meeting from 7:30-8:30. Peggy Dolter facilitated the "International Adoption" group. Buane and Brook VanFosson facilitated the "Domestic/Transracial Adoption" group, and Barb Blomquist facilitated a group for "Families with Teens or Children with Special Needs".

Child care was provided by the Evangelical Early Education Center's staff. The children attended the child care facility and brought their swim suits and engaged in fun activities and water play in the center's wading pool. The children were provided sack lunches. It was a super meeting and everything went well.

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nurture a child with health issues even when the doctors predict that the child's health issues will result in termination before that child reaches age five? The family's thought is to unselfishly give this child a family until then knowing that they will incur a great loss. Where is the media when a parent successfully works through their issues with community support (including the foster parent/s) and is able to redeem custody of their child/ren? When does the media point fingers at the State legislation and not the front line social workers that work double caseloads and are on call 24/7 who can barely make ends meet because their pay is just above the poverty line? When does the media attempt to support and awe at any employee working in the human services field whom are the lowest paid professionals in this country but have to double their education for accreditation?

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Carliesha has a charming personality. She is outgoing, talkative, and enjoys spending time with her friends. Carliesha likes to play board games and computer games with peers. Like most girls her age Carliesha likes to have her hair styled in various ways. She is fashionable and likes to collect jewelry. Carliesha has a variety of interests, which include playing basketball, skating, and bike riding. Weekend outings are a source of enjoyment for Carliesha. She likes going to Chuck E. Cheese, the Magic House, and the movies. She also likes watching television. Her favorite show is "that's So Raven". Carliesha likes a challenge, which is why math is her favorite subject. This song bird also sings in her school choir.

Carliesha would like to have a forever family. A one parent or two parent home is being sought for Carliesha. She would thrive in a structured and loving home environment.

Renita Jones, Adoption Specialist
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111 N. 7th Street
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314-340-4810

FOSTER AND ADOPTION RESOURCES

The following publications and resources are now available from the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. Use the links listed below, or contact the Clearinghouse to request a print copy.

<>National Adoption Month Website

The Children's Bureau's 2004 National Adoption Month website is now available, just in time to help adoption agencies, parent groups, and States plan their celebrations for National Adoption Month in November. The website builds on the Collaboration to AdoptUSKids' national recruitment campaign, "Answering the Call."

Highlights of the 2004 National Adoption Month website include:

=>Information about National Adoption Day 2004 (Saturday, November 20) =>Resources to support adoption professionals in their efforts to recruit and retain adoptive families for children waiting in foster care

=>Information about the adoption process and children who are waiting for adoptive families

=>Resources to help parents and teachers support adopted children and their families

<<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/adoptmonth/index.cfm>>

<>Court Jurisdiction and Venue for Adoption Petitions This resource, current through March 1, 2004, provides an overview of jurisdiction (what type of court is designated to hear adoption cases) and venue (how the appropriate geographic location is determined) for adoption petitions in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

HTML <<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/jurisdiction.cfm>>

PDF <<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/jurisdiction.pdf>>

OTHER RESOURCES

Children's Bureau Express

The September 2004 issue features information about the increasing numbers of children receiving interstate adoption assistance. Other features include a report on recent State child welfare legislation, research on the role of therapeutic foster care in preventing youth violence, and a study of the relationship between post-adoption services and adoption outcomes.

<>Recent Additions to the Clearinghouse Library Collection Many documents, including current research, journal articles, and reports on adoption, child abuse and neglect, prevention, and child welfare are available for no charge in full-text electronic formats through an online search of the Clearinghouse library. Use the link below to access these documents, or call the Clearinghouse for assistance.

Recent full-text, electronic additions to the library include:

=>Model Courts: Improving Outcomes for Abused and Neglected Children and Their Families (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges) =>Transition Planning for Foster Youth with Disabilities: Are We Falling Short?: An Awareness Document for Parents, Professionals and Youth (Fostering Futures) =>Youth Who Chronically AWOL From Foster Care: Why They Run, Where They Go, and What Can Be Done (Vera Institute of Justice) =>Strengthening and Preserving Adoptive Families: A Study of TANF-Funded Post Adoption Services in New York State (New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children) =>Grant Opportunities Notebook (Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives) =>Turning Point: Engaging the Public on Behalf of Children (Advertising Council)

<<http://basis1.calib.com/BASIS/chdocs/docs/canweb/SF>>

<>-----CONTACT INFORMATION -----<>

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse

Phone: (888) 251-0075

Email: naic@caliber.com

Web: <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>

FALL ADOPTION OPEN HOUSE

October 26, 2004
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Cooper Estates Clubhouse
1100 North Eastgate, Springfield

Profiles of children available for adoption
from surrounding counties and workers
will be available.

*For questions, please call Christine at
(417) 895-5896.*

Continued from page 1

several other foster, adoptive, kinship and guardianship parents in regards to this popular assignment/activity that has affected many of our young people. Until proper training occurs, you said it, "Just how cute is the pain this could cause a child." Even our foster and adoptive high school seniors face this difficult request

Yes, The Adoption Exchange does offer adoption sensitivity training to schools and any other community resources. We also have books in each Lending Library across the State that addresses this very issue. The books in the libraries are available to parents, children and professionals to check out. The name of the book that specifically addresses this issue is Adoption and the Schools: Resources for Parents and Teachers, by Lansing Wood and Nancy Ng.

If you don't know where your nearest Lending Library is located, feel free to call The Adoption Exchange at 1 (800) 554-2222.



Gamarr is a 10-year-old boy who loves the music of Motown, especially the Temptations. He is described as "a charming boy with a good sense of humor." Gamarr enjoys reading, playing the recorder, checkers, Connect-4 and speed card games. If he is outdoors, he plays football, basketball or 4-square. Gamarr is musically inclined and hopes to be a music teacher when he grows up. Gamarr is in an ungraded classroom, but is working at a 2nd grade level. To help with his moderate learning delays, he is in a self-contained classroom. Gamarr has not dealt with his feelings of anger and guilt and has difficulty forming close relationships. To deal with these issues resulting from abuse and neglect in his birth home, he is receiving mental health therapy, which will need to continue after placement. Gamarr has had several foster care placements and currently lives in a residential treatment center. His social worker is looking for a family who will be patient with Gamarr as he works through difficult issues and who will help him learn to take responsibility for his actions and accept the consequences for his behaviors. His new family should be willing to allow him to maintain contact with his brothers and other significant relationships in his life. Financial assistance is available for travel, medical care and mental health therapy.

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I pose all of these questions because what we are reading in the media lately seem to not only have the rest of the country thinking that we are not responsible, but also I've observed some wedges building between professionals and families. We have a network and we have to work together. Realizing that each of us has a turn in making the ice cream is so crucial. We really cannot successfully reach our goals without the support and advocacy of each other. WE are working with human lives! Our children and community needs us to prepare ice cream. And though there may be some people enjoying the ice cream without lending a hand and even criticizing the product, WE will know that it's good and satisfying as long as we put forth our best efforts. Let's not allow the media and other critics break our spirit, we've got ice cream to make!

LaRhonda L. Wilson,
The Adoption Exchange